

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 799

By West

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert Chalker “Bob” Sheehan of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert Chalker “Bob” Sheehan; and

WHEREAS, Bob Sheehan was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sheehan served with acumen and alacrity for thirty-eight years as an engineer with BellSouth until his much-deserved retirement in 1987; during his illustrious tenure with BellSouth he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sheehan was an active and devout member of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon and Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited Nashvillian of the highest order, he contributed significantly to numerous other causes that were close to his heart, including the YMCA, Boy Scouts of America, Meals on Wheels, Room in the Inn, Tennessee Telephone Pioneers, and Donelson-Hermitage Neighborhood Association; and

WHEREAS, an avid runner, Mr. Sheehan was the only person in the over-80 category to complete the 2005 Music City Half Marathon; he was 82 at the time; and

WHEREAS, born on January 3, 1923, in Eufaula, Alabama, Bob Sheehan lived most of his adult life in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in January of 1943, at the tender age of twenty, Mr. Sheehan, then a resident of Columbus, Georgia, was drafted into the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, after completing basic training, Mr. Sheehan was sent to Tibenham, England, where he was stationed with the 8th Air Force, 2nd Air Division, 445th Bomb Group; he and a crew of nine others comprised the crew of "Little Audrey," a B-24 Liberator Heavy Bomber; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 1944, as Little Audrey's crew attempted their 13th mission with their targets set on the railroad yards in Kassel, Germany, their B-24 was shot down by a concentrated German attack; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sheehan was subsequently captured by the Germans and endured eight months of indescribable hardship as a prisoner-of-war, including the Eastern Theater Death March that spanned 86 days and over 600 miles during one of the coldest winters in German history; and

WHEREAS, liberated by Allied forces less than two weeks before the German surrender, Mr. Sheehan returned home to attend Auburn University, from which he graduated with honors in 1948; and

WHEREAS, Bob Sheehan served his country valiantly as a soldier, prisoner-of-war, and member of America's Greatest Generation during World War II; and

WHEREAS, when later asked about his experiences during World War II, Bob Sheehan told others that he always felt he would make it home safely, but at the same time he had the assurance of his salvation and knew that God was in control; and

WHEREAS, Bob Sheehan was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Betty Jane Briley "Sugar Babe," Sheehan who he married on July 26, 1943, and with whom he shared sixty four years of love and devotion; and

WHEREAS, he was the proud father of sons, Russ Sheehan, married to Martha, Mike Sheehan, married to Beverly, and Steve Sheehan, married to Darlus; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his grandchildren, Briley Sheehan, married to Benita, Patrick Sheehan, married to Elizabeth, Heather Gerber, married to Tony, Theresa

Krzeminski, married to Eric, Amanda Sheehan, Meghan Sheehan, Nick Thompson, Jess Thompson, Ashley Sheehan, and Erin Sheehan; and great-grandchildren, Xander and Ayla; and

WHEREAS, Bob Sheehan leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Robert Chalker “Bob” Sheehan, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Sheehan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.